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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **SMYTH, Larry, C.** [CA/US]; 42 Chesapeake  
Landing, Annapolis, MD 21403 (US).

(74) Agent: **SCHWARTZ, Jeffrey, J.**; Schwartz Law Firm,  
P.C., South Park Towers, Suite 530, 6100 Fairview Road,  
Charlotte, NC 28210 (US).

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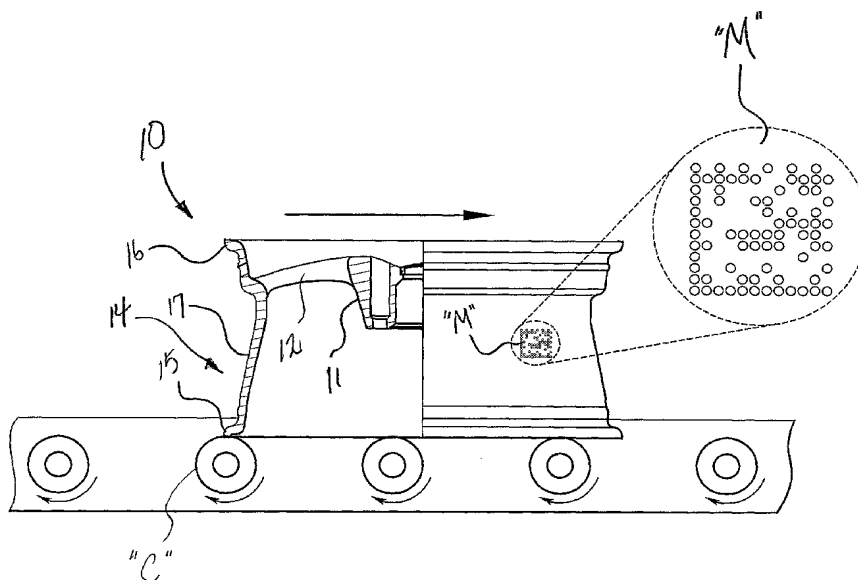
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR ELECTRONICALLY IDENTIFYING A CODED PART



(57) Abstract: A method for electronically identifying a coded part includes the step of locating a machine-readable area relief pattern formed with a surface of the part. The relief pattern includes separate and distinct code elements extending along both x and y axes. Each code element has a profile dimension extending along a z-axis relative to a native surface of the part. A region of interest containing the area relief pattern is then measured along the x, y, and z axes. The area relief pattern is then extracted from the measured region of interest. The area relief pattern is then decoded to extract part information encoded in the relief pattern.